

## Anderson, Bryan

---

**From:** Kevin Berrill <kevin.berrill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 07, 2019 3:33 PM  
**To:** LABTestimony  
**Subject:** HB 7292, An Act Concerning Social Work Title Protection, Labor and Public Employees Committee

I am a resident of Southbury, CT and a clinical social worker, writing in regard to HB 7292, An Act Concerning Social Work Title Protection.

As a social worker, I urge you to consider the following:

- Individuals who have attained a degree in social work have taken a rigorous curriculum in cultural differences, ethical practice, human behavior and therapeutic treatments.
- Practice by individuals who are "social workers" in name only reflects badly on the entire social work profession.
- Those with degrees in social work are bound by the NASW Code of Ethics, public standards consumers can hold social workers accountable to. But consumers who have been harmed can't file a complaint against someone who is a social worker in name only.
- Title protection will protect consumers by preventing agencies from falsely advertising their services and providing substandard care.
- Here in Connecticut, doctors, dentists, veterinarians, psychologists, and massage therapists are among the health professions that have title protection. Why not social workers?
- Thirty-five states already have title protection in place for social workers, including Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, and New Jersey.

While I strongly support social work title protection, I am deeply concerned with the current language of the bill. As it is written right now, the bill would only allow people with a *license* in social work to call themselves "social workers." Not only would this not protect MSWs who do not need a license to practice (e.g. macro-level social workers) and BSWs who are unable to get a license in the first place, it would effectively *ban* these individuals – who have worked hard to earn degrees in social work – from accurately representing themselves as social workers!

I strongly urge the committee amend the current bill to protect MSWs and BSWs, not just those who have a social work license.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Berrill, LCSW  
150A Heritage Village  
Southbury, CT 06488  
202.306.1011

--

Kevin Berrill, MSW, LCSW, LICSW  
Mobile: 202.306.1011

This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain information that is confidential, privileged, or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any distribution, dissemination, or duplication of this communication is strictly unauthorized and prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately by telephone (202.306.1011) or return e-mail, and delete this message.

Please be advised that email is not a secure medium of communication and that confidentiality cannot be assured.